The Merald and News

SOUTHERN HORSEMANNHIP.

The Southern People the Best Horsemen the World-Decline of the Noble Att in the North.

[New Orleans Picayune.] Not many years ago electricity was made the moving power of street cars in cities, and when the bicycle was seen on every street and road it was declared that there would soon be little use for horses as means of transportation, while the military cities declared that the long-rauge guns had made the use of mounted troops impossible, and the romantic picture of the war horse rushing with his rider into battle would soon become a mere memory.

The experience of the Confederate war for independence, supplemented by those of England's war with the Boers, have demonstrated that mount ed troops are of greater value than ever. As the American people are going to be called on many times to prove their prowess in battle, and as volunteers will continue for a long time to make up a great part of the United States army in time of war, it becomes of the greatest value that the Americans should be good horse

The superiority in horsemanship of the people of the Southern States of the Union has been frequently commented on, but it appears that | tle. this superiority in past years has grown decidedly more marked. In the Northern States it seems that the people no longer ride horses, but have abandoned the saddle for the wheeled conveyance. In a recent issue of the New York Country Gentleman, a periodical devoted to rural interests, Mr. Ernest H. Crosby, of Dutchess County, in that State, writes as fol

"Visitors of the South usually find much to criticise, but during a recent trip through Georgia and the Caro linas, I noticed one thing in which the South is far ahead of us at the North, and that is horsemanship. In any Southern town on any day of the horseback, who have come in from the neighboring country and are transacting their business there, and saddle horses tied up before a church and self respect, the habit is a clear advantage to the community.

"In the North, as we all know, our farmers have forgotten that the horse can bear a man on his back, and they would as soon think of riding a cow. I doubt, if on an average, there is one saddle to fifty farms in the State of New York, and our boys are brought up in the stable without ever getting astride of a horse. It is a very great pity and distinct loss to the character of our people. The buggy is no substitute for the saddle. With its comfortable seat and high back, saddle invites an erect and vi rile attitude. On a large farm it is far more convenient to superintend operations from a saddle than from a wagon or on foot, and there is a good deal of business in town, not involving large packages, which can also be well attended to on horseback, and the saving in wear and tear on wheels would be worth considering,

"We are usually told that people ride in the South because the roads are too bad for wagons. If good roads mean the neglect of this exer cise, I would go slow in urging the improvement of them. But in the North we seem to fall between two stools, for we have neither the good roads nor the horsemanship. As a matter of fact, the good roads excuse is no excuse at all, for in England, where the roads are excellent, every body rides, and the farmer spends a goodly part of his life in the saddle, and would open his eyes wide at the idea of a farmer who did not know how to ride.

"Can nothing be done to encourage horsemanship on the farm? We cannot expect much from the elderly men, but I am sure that the boys would take kindly to it, and I believe that a saddle on a farm would soon pay for itself in the saving of wagons and harness. It must be manifest to any one who thinks the matter over that it is absurd to leave riding to a millionaire class, with polo and steam yachting, when the farm. ing telegram to his successful rival; er's son is thrown with horses much more than the rich man's son. At win and I lose."

any rate, I, for one, am sorry to see the South so far superior to us in this respect, and I hope that, with the sad example of the North before them, our southern brethren will not suffer the horseback habit to fall into :

It was mentioned some weeks ago that when President Roosevelt was visiting National Park at Chattanooga he was escorted by a detachment of Federal cavalry; but when the president, who is a rough rider, broke into a fast gallop, the envalrymen, in trying to follow him, were not equal to the pace, but many of ther fell from their horses in a most disgraceful manner. Such cavalry in a breakneck charge, even if not a single gun were fired at them, would be de feated, if not destroyed, from ina bility to ride.

Major Heros Von Boreke, an offi cer in the Prussian Dragoons, who became an officer in the Confederate cavalry, under the celebrated General Stuart, in his "Memoirs of the Confederate War," published in 1866 in London and Edinburgh, by the famous Blackwood firm, declared that the Southern mounted troops were the best light cavalry in the world, and he excepted none, not even the Cossacks.

Mounted men for rapid movements are what is wanted today in war, and the army, other things being equal, that possesses the best and the great est number of them, will win in but

EMILE ZOLA'S SUDDEN DEATH.

The Famous Novelet Asphyxiated by Con-Gas-Narrow Escapa of Zola's Wife, The Couple had Just Returned from their Country Bome to Parls.

Paris, September 29.—Emile Zola, the novelist, who gained additional prominence in recent years because of his defence of the Jews and of former Capt. Dreyfus, was found dead in his Parishome this morning. Asphyxiation, resulting from the fumes of a stove in his bed room, is given as the cause of death

M. Zola and his wife retired at year you will see a dozen men on 3 o'clock last night. Madame Zola was seriously ill when the room was broken into this morning. About noon she was removed to a private it is not uncommon to see a string of hospital, where she recoved conscious ness for a short time and was able door during service. Every man who briefly to explain to a magistrate owns a horse or keeps a horse in the what had happened. M. and Mme South knows how to sit on his back, Zola returned to Paris from their and as riding is a fine manly exer- country house at Medan yesterday. cise, conducive to vigorous health Owing to a sudden spell of cold weather the heating stove in their bed room was ordered to be lighted. The stove barned badly and the pipes of the stove are said to have been out of order.

To the magistrate Mme Zola explained that she woke early this morning with a splitting headache. She wakened her husband and asked him to open a window. She saw him rise and attempt to move to ward a window, but he staggered and fell to the floor unconscious. Mme Zola fainted at the same moment and was, therefore, unable to give the alaım.

Mme Zola does not know of her husband's death and it is feared she may sufier a relapse when informed of it. It is thought tonight, how ever, that she will recover.

The death of M. Zola, which only became generally known late this af ternoon, has caused a

GREAT SENSATION IN PARIS

and this evening there was a con stant stream of callers at the Zola residence. M. Zola's body lies upon a divan in the centre of the spacious drawing room of his house nuder a canopy of rare and ancient hangings. The body is covered with a sheet and electric lamps throw their vivid light upon the waxlike features of the

They were good friends, and in their early days of indifference to femininty had signed and sested a contract which directed that the first one married was to pay \$25 to the other, says the Memphis News.

Cupids in a freakish mood turned their attention to the same girland in the end one them captured the prize. The friendship that had stood the rivalry without a crack did not break when the announcement of the wedding came from a nearby city.

Nothing daunted, the friend and disappointed lover sent the follow

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